This is a Fake

by Miman

Don't worry.
I'll make sure to get this one right.
It's fine like that, come on.
Not yet.
I need to make sure you're properly in the frame, Mei.

Shall we go ahead and take the next one, then?
We're going to wait like this until the picture's done developing.
How does it look?
You have to wait.
It doesn't show up right away.

All right, then. We'll take a break from taking pictures
and just stay like this for a while.
Until then, stay just like that, Senpai.
That's why I love you, Senpai!
There's something between us,
Me too
I love you too, Mei.
between Mei and I, that we call "love"

これは、にせもの

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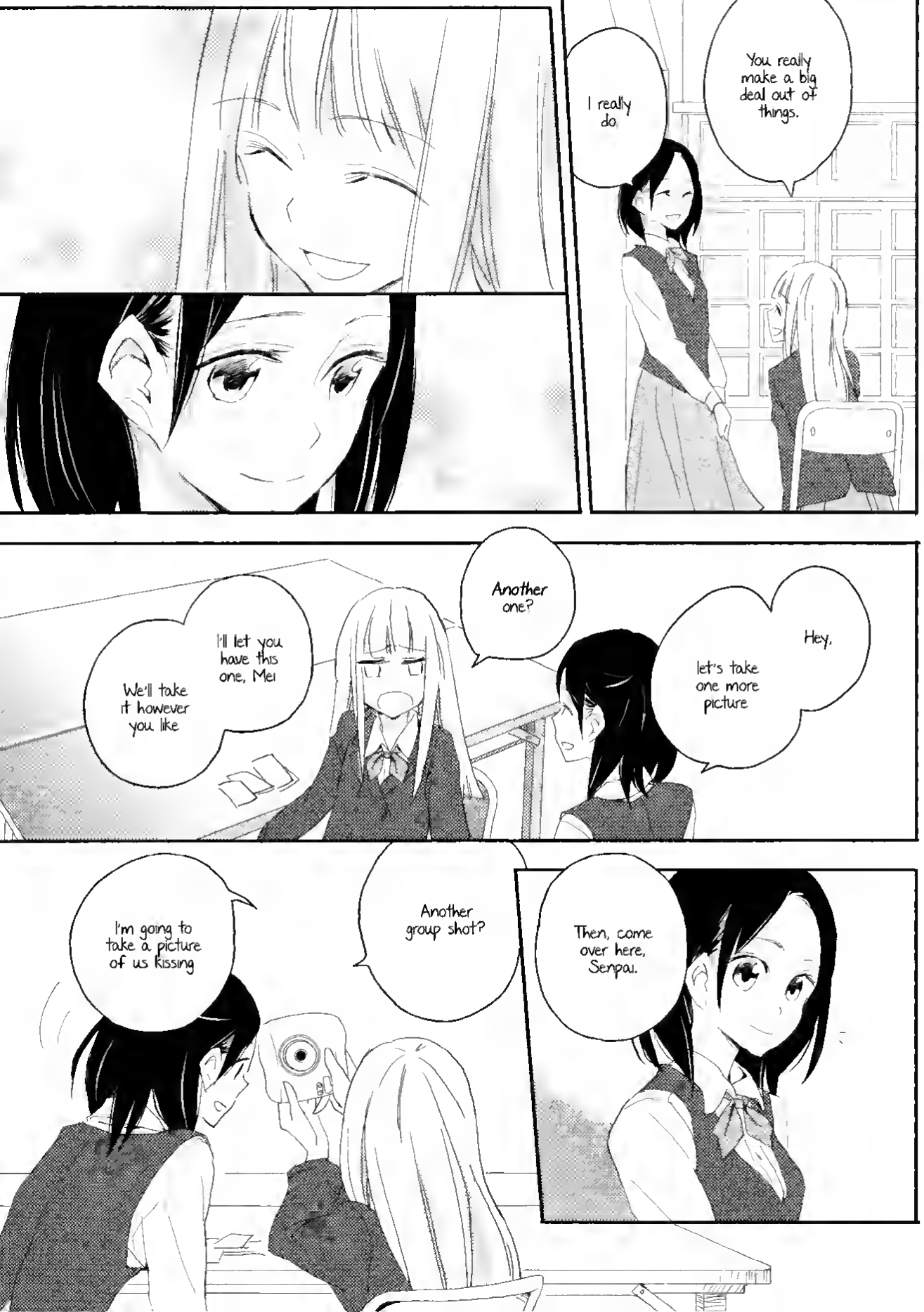
presented by
MIMAN

未幡

If we cut images of ourselves out of time,
so they always stay the way they are now,
we'll never forget the way things used to be, right?
Senpai,
why did you suddenly want to start taking photographs?
I know, but... what? You'll be left here as just a bunch of photos?
"Suddenly"...
Come April, I won't be around here anymore, you know?
I want to hurry up and graduate
Really?
You make too big of a deal out of things, Senpai
Hmm...
I'm saying goodbye to this school— to this room, too.

Because, I mean
In school, we just keep doing the same things, day after day
It's stifling
I want to hurry up and break out of here, into the outside world
I'll head out to see the great, wide world!
Who's the one who makes a big deal out of things?
I'll graduate and experience the great, wide world, together with you.
When I do, the person beside me will be you, Senpai
I know I'll be keeping you waiting until then,
So that's why I want to hurry up and graduate.

TAP
TAP
TAP
...
start
You know...
tap
!
..is she gone?
I don't hear the footsteps anymore.
Getting alone time together with you at school...
it's not easy
.....
sigh...
What were you about to say before?
Huh?
Mmm..
Just thinking that not having to sneak around like this
will have to wait until graduation, too.


You really make a big deal out of things.
I really do.
Another one?
I'll let you have this one, Mei
We'll take it however you like
Hey, let's take one more picture
Another group shot?
I'm going to take a picture of us kissing
Then, come over here, Senpai.

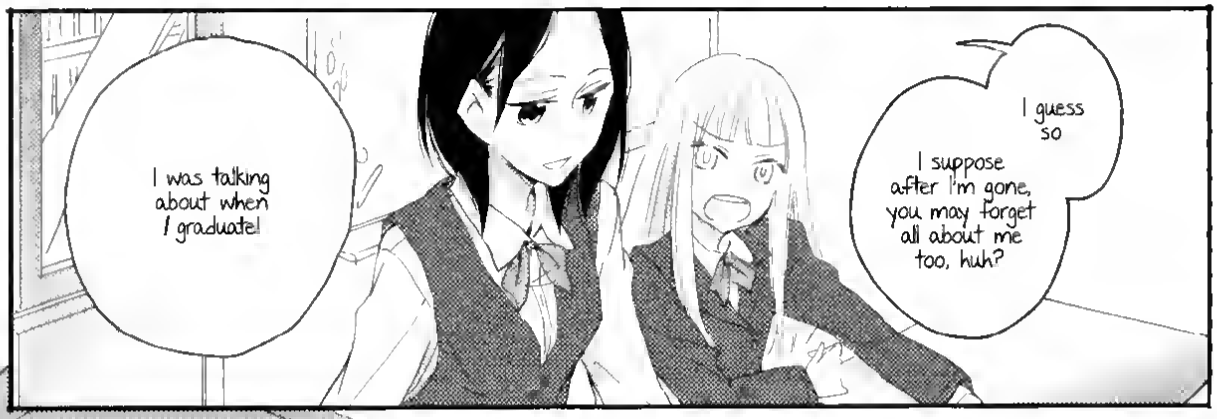
snap
Here, like this.
Go ahead, Senpai.
...you're seriously taking it?
I'll press the shutter, all right?
.....!?
Ah ha ha ha!
Senpai, you're bright red!
Okay! My commemorative photograph is done!
I'm definitely not giving that one to you.
Sigh...
You really are cute, Senpai.
Please don't waste film. We're running low.
Okayyy!

This really is...
quite an embarrassing picture...
I can't believe I made a face like that...
You're the cute one, Mei...
You really are cute, Senpai
He he he...
He...

I can't let my spirits get too high.
There aren't that many days remaining.
That's right.
Graduation is almost here
This one?
Not feeling it.
What about this one, then?
Ah, you look cute in this one.
That can go in your pile, then.
What's this photo, Senpai? There's nothing in it.
This is—..
A picture I took of the room.

I don't really care if I forget all about those sorts of things.

You even photographed stuff like that?
I wouldn't want to forget it, would I?


I was talking about when I graduate!
I guess so
I suppose after I'm gone, you may forget all about me too, huh?

In the first place, Senpai, you went overboard just photographing any old thing you wanted.

I really want that picture we took yesterday, if you'd just give it to me.
Ahhh.

I know, I know, but.
I won't.
You have to choose all the ones you're taking from that pile.

ba-thump
Senpai, who is this?
That's an old upperclass-man of mine.
Wow, you look so young, Senpai!
When's this picture from?
Two years ago
It's a photograph we took to commemorate when she graduated
Let me have that back...
fwsh

She was just an upper-classman.
I can tell, Senpai.
She's not just an upperclassman
You two are smiling the same way we do.
Do you still see this girl now?
No, of course not
You loved her, didn't you, Senpai?
I thought I did,
but it seems I was wrong
When she graduated,
it all ended there

Just how it's all going to end between us soon.
Really?
Yes...
...Eh?
I love you, Senpai.
You and only you.
That's... not how you feel?

This is just a fake.
But don't be mistaken.
I love you, too, Mei.
It happens a lot in all-girls' schools. Girls form very intimate relationships,
and start to come under the illusion that they're really in love.
Why are you saying these things?
...I'm not
like that at all, you know?

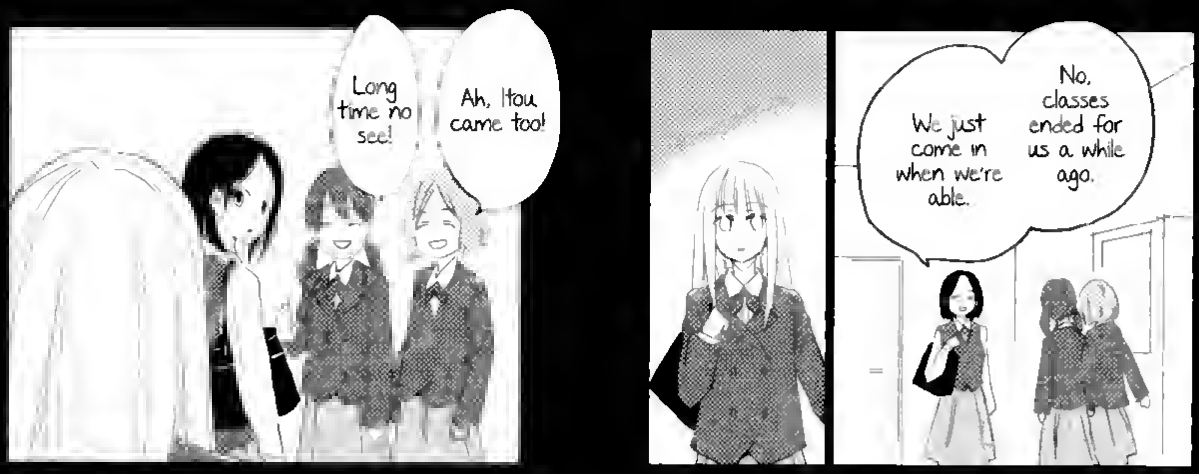
That's the kind of thing our relationship is, Mei.
When I'm no longer your senpai, and you're no longer my kouhai,
it'll suddenly disappear like it never existed at all

Hold on to it as a memory of your time with me.

So I want you to keep this, Mei.
In the world of photographs, it will always be true.

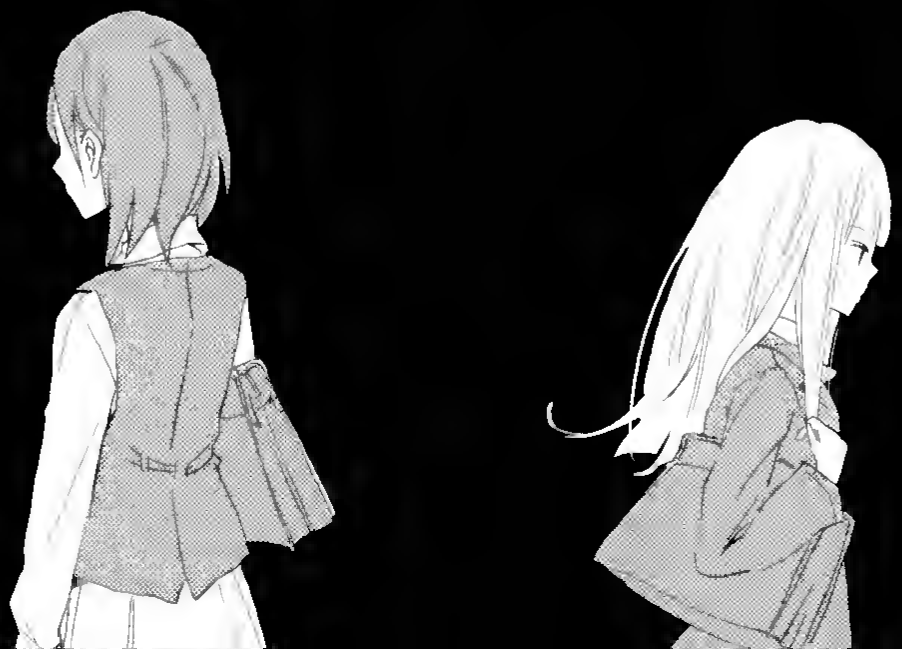
Don't want it
rip
tear
rip...
Just the same way it did before
Ohh, senpai!
What, do seniors have classes today?
Like this, it simply ends

It's not like we're losing anything.



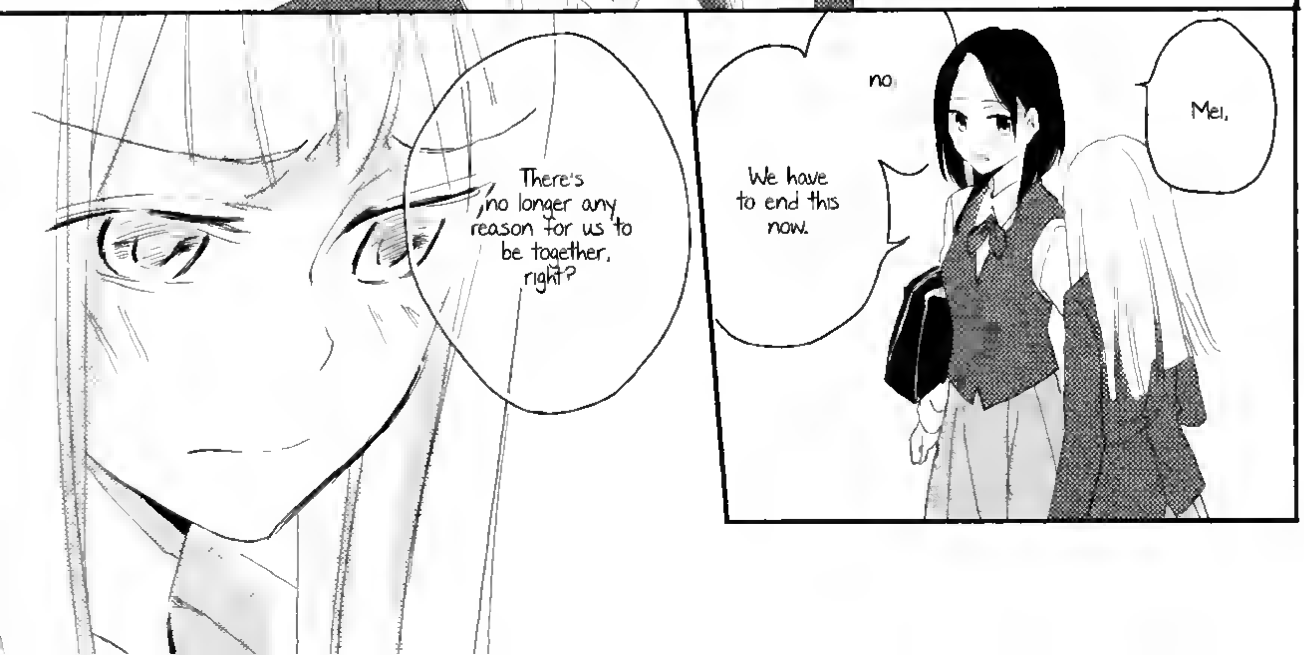
Since there was nothing really there from the start.

We're just closing this chapter in our lives, that's all.



Senpai
Goodbye!
Farewell

I want to stay with you.
Senpai,
I can't do this.


There's no longer any reason for us to be together, right?
no.
We have to end this now.
Mei,

I'm serious about you.
You don't understand at all, Senpai.
I'm serious about you!
That's only
the way you feel at this moment
I'm in love with you, Senpai.
Please don't say something like, "We're ending this."

I was just like you, Mei.
I said those things, too. But then it all just ended.
They all turned into fakes, into lies.
That way of thinking is fake as well.
Doesn't that make you sad, Senpai?
Aren't you sad?

Of course it makes me sad.
If they weren't really lies, if they were all true... it's terribly sad.
So I'll just treat all these feelings as fakes.
I'll treat them like they don't exist.
Because I don't want to be sad anymore.

Senpai,
If you're sad,
then you're the same as me.
Isn't that enough of a reason for us to be together?
I don't want to leave you, Mei...

Why did I never realize such a simple fact until now?
You hid your relationship with that upperclassman
I'm mad at you, got it?
Don't be angry... please?
Even this got all torn up, all because of you, Senpai.
I let you have that picture you took, didn't I?
Why did you tape it together like this?
Something like... I wanted to turn it into a memory, I guess?
This is a forgery.
We don't have to call it a "fake" anymore

The things we've done before, and the things we're yet to do—
we'll turn it all into a wonderful "reality."

End

This is a Fake

presented by Miman

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